

Renton Library Advisory Board



Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall, 7th Floor Council Conference Room

March 25 ~ 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erica Richey called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

In Attendance

Members: Laurie Beden, Lynne King, Erica Richey, Catherine Ploue-Smith
City Staff: Terry Higashiyama, Peter Renner, Mark Santo's Johnson, Diane Wagner
KCLS Staff: John Sheller

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Laurie Beden made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted, Catherine Ploue-Smith seconded. All were in favor, motion carried, agenda approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laurie Beden made a motion to approve the February 2015 minutes with one spelling correction, Lynne King seconded. All were in favor, motion carried, amended minutes approved.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VI. ACTION / BRIEFING

Mark Santos Johnson, Renton Community Development Manager, was on hand to show the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation / Grant Application presentation.

Mark mentioned there is a potential to secure up to 30 million dollars for the Sunset Area Transformation Plan out of the total of 155 million dollars of available funds. The profile of the Sunset area is 269 acres near the City Center with 2,784 residents and 559 businesses. There is good access to highways and transit, and it is close to major employment, shopping and entertainment. The housing projects were originally built as temporary housing during the war-time 1940's.

The Sunset Area Community Needs include over 25% of households live in poverty, and 75% of the students at Highlands Elementary qualify for free or reduced lunch, while the violent crime rate is two times higher than the city as a whole. There is a significant elderly population here. This revitalization has been a work in progress for 15 years. In the last three

years, the City, Renton Housing Authority and the Renton School District have invested 39 million dollars in the Sunset area. The City has committed additional funds of \$30 million for additional improvements.

Recently completed projects include the Meadow Crest Early Learning Center, the Inclusive Playground, Glennwood Townhomes and Kirkland Avenue Townhomes, utility upgrades, and the Highlands-to-Landing pedestrian connection.

The transformation plan will start with the redevelopment vision including a new three acre neighborhood park, surrounded by affordable mixed income housing units and the new Renton Highlands Library. The Plan will address targeted needs including new affordable and mixed-income housing, enhanced education programs, expanded health and human service, crime prevention strategies and improved access to jobs. The grant application was submitted in February 2015.

Mark outlined the budget requests, breakdowns and services proposed. HUD announces the awards in September.

VII. CITY REPORT / Terry Higashiyama, Peter Renner

Peter Renner discussed the progress on the Liberty Park Library. He said the Library construction is progressing very well and still slightly ahead of schedule. The glass and framework for almost all the storefront is in. Peter mentioned the electrical feed issues and lead-time and said there will most likely be temporary wiring to the computer desks until final occupancy due to scheduling. The big cottonwood trees are out and the parks reps now to coordinate the landscaping. Peter mentioned that the Art Commission is considering moving the stilt walker near the front door.

The Highlands library walls are being formed and concrete pouring will take place on Friday early in the morning. Peter talked about the post tension slabs, and the delicacy of electrical templates for lining up of computers and desks. He said the library will take on many fast changes over the next couple weeks due to the progress of concrete and steel work. He mentioned the pressure to stay on schedule and doing so with no safety issues and so far, things are going very good.

VIII. KCLS REPORT/JOHN SELLER

John Sheller congratulated Laurie Beden on her acceptance to the KCLS Art Oversight Committee. He also mentioned the KCLS staff was honored for their positive interaction in the community and were recognized for acts of kindness. John mentioned they started working on the re-opening of the Highlands Library on the operational side but need to solidify the construction schedule. He also mentioned that the Highlands Library added Sunday Hours!

John briefly discussed the KCLS Intellectual Freedom Policy and recommended the group look at adding something to their 2015 continued goals. With that, a motion was made by Lynne King and seconded by Catherine to consider adding the following to the 2015 Continued Goals "Review and Discuss KCLS Intellectual Freedom Policy". Motion granted.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

The Board talked about the recent interviews for the Board Opening and was pleased to announce that Kim Unti will be joining the group.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. INFORMATION

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Laurie Beden and seconded by Catherine Ploue-Smith to adjourn the March meeting. All were in favor, motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Signature

	April Meeting	
	Wednesday, April 15, 2015	
	Renton City Hall, 7 th Floor Council Conference Room	
	May Meeting	
	Wednesday, May20, 2015	
	Renton City Hall, 7 th Floor Council Conference Room	